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The WOOL SITUATION

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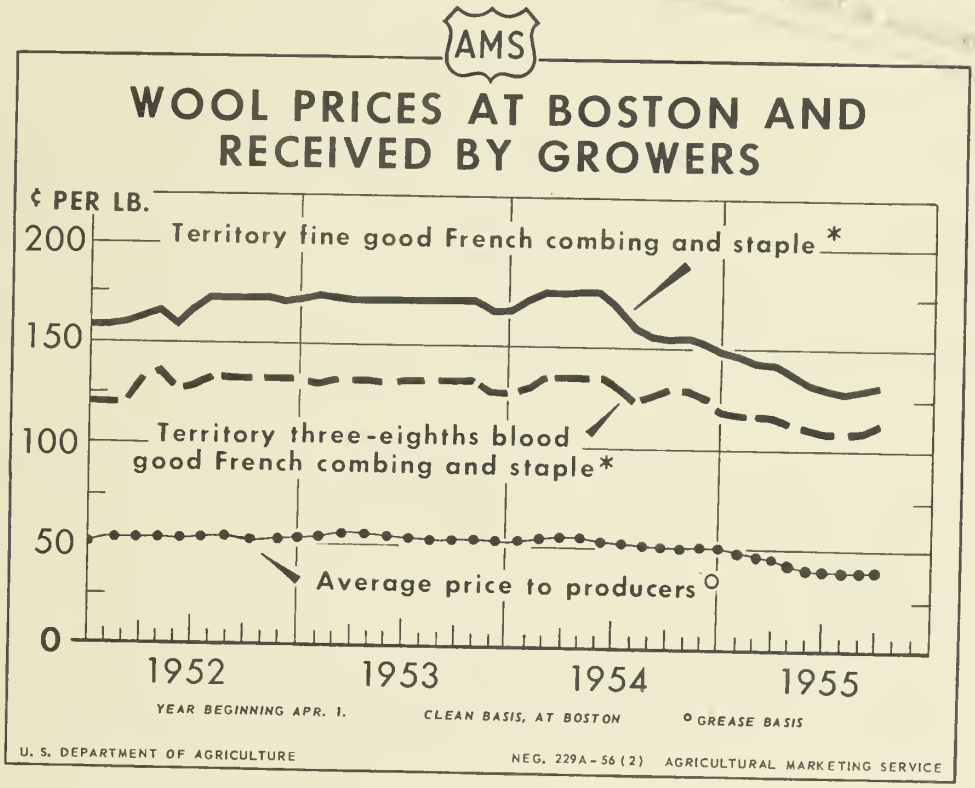

Wool prices in world markets declined sharply after mid-1954. The decline abroad was not fully reflected in domestic markets until after the opening of the 1955 marketing season when the incentive payments program went into effect. Since under this new program growers sell their wool in the open market at prices reflecting world supply and demand conditions, prices received this season have been averaging substantially below last season. However, after the close of the season, growers will be eligible for Government payments which will bring the average return per pound for all producers up to the support level. The support level is 15 percent higher than the average price received in 1954.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE

AGRICULTURE - WASHINGTON

STATISTICAL SUMMARY
Part I - Prices

Item	Unit	1954 Oct.	1954 Nov.	1954 Dec.	1955 Jan.	1955 Oct.	1955 Nov.	1955 Dec.	1956 Jan.	Last data available as percent of a year earlier
Wool										
Average price received by farmers, grease basis	Cents per pound	52.2	51.0	50.5	50.5	39.5	39.0	39.2	39.5	78
Parity price		58.3	58.3	58.3	---	58.8	58.6	58.6	60.1	---
Farm as percent of parity		90	87	87	---	67	67	67	66	---
Boston, clean basis 1/										
Domestic										
Graded territory										
Fine good French combing and staple	do.	171.2	160.0	156.0	155.0	130.0	127.5	129.8	131.6	85
1/2 blood good French combing and staple	do.	155.0	143.8	143.1	145.0	120.0	117.5	117.5	121.2	84
3/8 blood good French combing and staple	do.	130.6	123.1	126.4	130.0	107.5	107.5	108.1	111.1	85
1/4 blood good French combing and staple	do.	120.0	107.4	107.5	112.9	101.8	101.5	102.5	105.1	93
Low 1/4 blood	do.	105.0	92.5	96.5	99.4	92.5	92.5	92.5	96.2	97
Common and braid	do.	98.1	87.5	87.5	90.0	92.5	88.5	91.2	92.5	103
Graded fleece										
Delaine	do.	176.2	165.0	167.5	167.5	131.2	127.5	127.5	131.2	78
1/2 blood good French combing and staple	do.	144.8	135.0	132.5	133.1	110.0	109.1	111.5	116.8	88
3/8 blood good French combing and staple	do.	119.6	107.5	113.5	114.6	99.9	99.2	102.9	106.4	93
1/4 blood good French combing and staple	do.	112.8	102.6	103.6	113.8	95.9	94.5	98.4	101.5	89
Low 1/4 blood	do.	105.0	92.5	93.5	99.4	92.0	87.6	89.2	91.9	92
Common and braid	do.	96.2	87.5	87.5	90.0	84.9	84.0	86.6	87.5	97
Original bag Texas										
Fine 12 months good French combing and staple	do.	175.0	160.0	162.5	162.5	131.2	128.0	132.5	134.8	83
Fine 8 months (1" and over)	do.	160.0	145.0	147.5	147.5	117.5	116.5	117.5	118.8	81
Fine fall (3/4" and over)	do.	146.2	140.0	137.5	137.5	107.5	102.5	102.5	105.0	76
Imported, excluding duty										
Australian										
64's, 70's warp and 1/2 warp	do.	177.5	172.5	167.5	157.5	131.1	127.5	127.5	135.0	86
64's, 70's good topmaking	do.	172.5	167.5	162.5	152.5	126.2	122.5	122.5	130.0	85
64's combing	do.	167.5	162.5	157.5	147.5	121.2	117.5	117.5	125.0	85
58's, 60's combing	do.	147.5	142.5	137.5	127.5	116.2	112.5	112.5	120.0	94
Montevideo super										
0's (58's, 60's)	do.	132.5	132.5	134.1	127.8	102.4	101.4	102.0	102.5	80
1's (56's)	do.	122.5	122.5	123.9	118.2	100.2	98.0	98.0	98.5	83
2's (50's)	do.	105.5	105.5	105.5	105.5	95.6	94.5	94.5	95.5	91
3's (46's, 48's)	do.	94.5	94.5	94.5	94.5	91.0	91.0	91.0	91.0	96
4's (44's)	do.	86.5	86.5	92.9	94.5	88.5	88.5	88.5	88.5	94
5's (40's)	do.	86.5	86.5	92.9	94.5	88.5	88.5	88.5	88.5	94
Other textile fibers										
Cotton, middling 15/16" 2/	do.	34.2	33.7	33.9	34.0	32.9	33.6	33.7	34.1	100
Man-made synthetic staple fiber										
Viscose, 1-1/2 denier 3/	do.	34.0	34.0	34.0	34.0	34.0	34.0	34.0	4/	100
Acetate, 5 denier 3/	do.	34.0	34.0	34.0	34.0	37.0	36.8	32.0	4/	94
Nylon, 3 denier 5/	do.	150.0	150.0	150.0	150.0	150.0	150.0	125.0	125.0	83
Dacron, 3, 4.5, and 6 denier 5/	do.	160.0	160.0	160.0	160.0	160.0	160.0	135.0	135.0	84
Orlon, 3, 4.5, and 6 denier 5/	do.	150.0	150.0	150.0	150.0	150.0	150.0	125.0	125.0	83
Acrilan, 3 and 5 denier 5/	do.	140.0	140.0	140.0	140.0	140.0	112.0	112.0	112.0	80
Dynel, 2, 3, 6, 12, and 24 denier 5/	do.	128.0	128.0	128.0	128.0	128.0	105.0	105.0	105.0	82
Vicara, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 7 denier 5/	do.	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100

1/ From Weekly Review of the Boston Wool Market.
2/ Average of 14 markets.
3/ From Textile Organon.
4/ Not available.
5/ From Modern Textile Magazine.

THE WOOL SITUATION

Approved by the Outlook and Situation Board, February 15, 1956

SUMMARY

The decline in prices received by United States producers for shorn wool this season results from larger world supplies and the change in the way in which support is provided. Prices dropped from an average of 48.7 cents per pound, grease basis, in mid-April to 39.5 cents in mid-January. Wool prices in world markets have dropped sharply over the last two years, though they have recovered a little in recent months.

Under the payments program which went into effect with the current season, growers sell their wool in the open market at prices reflecting world supply and demand conditions. After the close of the season, they are eligible for Government payments which bring the average return per pound up to the support or incentive level. The incentive level under both the 1955 and 1956 programs has been set at 62 cents, which is substantially above the average price received so far this year and also above the average price, 53.9 cents, received during the 1954 marketing season. Market prices this season have been averaging substantially lower than this and are expected to continue to do so during the 1956 marketing year.

Under both the 1955 and 1956 programs, pulled wool will be supported through Government payments on live animals. However, eligibility requirements under the 1956 program have been revised so that each producer who has owned unshorn lambs for at least 30 days will be eligible for payments.

With about the same number of stock sheep and lambs on farms and ranches at the beginning of this year as last year, shorn wool production in the United States in 1956 is not likely to be much different from 1955. The Foreign Agricultural Service estimates that 1955-56 world production will be between 2 and 3 percent, clean basis, larger than was the 1954-55 clip.

Domestic mills used more of both apparel and carpet wool in 1955 than the year before. The average weekly rate of apparel wool consumption was up about 7 percent but, except for 1954, was the lowest since prewar and less than 2 percent above the 1935-39 average. On a per capita basis, it was about one-fifth below 1935-39 reflecting the long-time downward trend in mill use. The rate of carpet wool consumption was 16 percent above 1954.

Imports of dutiable wool were up 8 percent and of duty-free wool up 33 percent during the first 11 months of the year. The large increase in duty-free imports last year reflected an increase in stocks of carpet wool over the year as well as higher consumption.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY
Part II - Supplies and Mill Activity

Item	Unit	1954 Sept.	1954 Oct.	1954 Nov.	1954 Dec.	1955 Aug.	1955 Sept.	1955 Oct.	1955 Nov.	1955 Dec.	Last data available as percent of a year earlier
Imports for consumption, clean content	Million pounds										
Dutiable 2/	do.	7.5	7.9	7.3	7.2	9.1	6.8	7.7	8.9		122
60's and finer	do.	3.7	4.2	4.2	4.3	5.1	4.0	3.8	5.1		121
56's - 60's	do.	1.1	1.4	.9	.6	1.3	.9	1.5	1.5		167
50's - 56's	do.	1.0	.9	.6	.5	.5	.6	.8	.8		133
44's - 50's	do.	.7	.3	.2	.3	.4	.3	.2	.4		200
40's - 44's	do.	.4	.5	.8	.8	.4	.3	.2	.3		38
Not finer than 40's	do.	.5	.5	.5	.5	1.0	.5	1.1	.7		40
Donskoi, Smyrna, etc.	do.	.1	.1	.1	.2	.4	.2	.1	.1		100
Duty-free	do.	9.7	8.7	6.0	6.6	14.2	11.7	12.8	8.3		138
Donskoi, Smyrna, etc.	do.	6.3	4.7	3.9	4.2	7.2	6.0	5.6	5.1		131
Not finer than 40's	do.	3.4	4.0	2.1	2.4	7.0	5.7	7.2	3.2		152
Accumulated since January 1											
Dutiable 2/	do.	81.4	89.3	96.6	103.8	81.2	88.0	95.7	104.6		108
60's and finer	do.	44.2	48.4	52.6	56.9	47.8	51.8	55.6	60.7		115
56's - 60's	do.	11.6	12.9	13.9	14.5	11.5	12.5	13.9	15.4		111
50's - 56's	do.	9.6	10.4	11.0	11.5	6.9	7.5	8.3	9.1		83
44's - 50's	do.	3.7	4.0	4.2	4.6	2.5	2.8	2.9	3.3		79
40's - 44's	do.	3.4	3.9	4.7	5.5	3.3	3.7	3.9	4.2		89
Not finer than 40's	do.	7.5	8.0	8.5	9.0	7.1	7.6	8.6	9.3		109
Donskoi, Smyrna, etc.	do.	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.7	1.8	1.9	2.0	2.1		140
Duty-free	do.	80.8	89.5	95.5	102.2	94.3	106.0	118.8	127.1		133
Donskoi, Smyrna, etc.	do.	42.9	47.6	51.5	55.7	53.4	59.4	65.0	70.1		136
Not finer than 40's	do.	37.9	41.9	44.0	46.5	40.9	46.6	53.8	57.0		130
Imports for consumption, actual weight											
Dutiable	do.	10.8	11.6	11.1	11.1	13.4	10.0	11.2	13.1		118
Duty-free	do.	13.2	12.4	8.2	9.1	19.1	15.9	17.6	10.6		129
Mill consumption, scoured basis 3/											
Per week, during month 4/											
Apparel (domestic and duty-paid foreign)	1,000 pounds	4,881	4,962	4,685	4,520	5,786	5,179	5,747	5,661	5,185	115
60's and finer	do.	2,349	2,482	2,442	2,486	2,946	2,702	3,104	2,967	2,910	117
50's up to 60's	do.	1,871	1,918	1,752	1,520	2,177	1,848	2,054	2,050	1,769	116
48's and coarser	do.	661	562	491	514	663	629	589	644	506	98
Carpet (duty-free foreign)	do.	2,300	2,365	2,274	2,214	2,627	2,649	2,973	2,891	2,792	126
Accumulated since January 1											
Apparel (domestic and duty-paid foreign)	Million pounds	205.1	225.0	243.7	266.3	188.3	214.2	237.2	259.8	285.7	107
60's and finer	do.	107.3	117.3	127.1	139.5	100.8	114.3	126.7	138.6	153.1	110
50's up to 60's	do.	69.7	77.3	84.3	91.9	65.8	75.0	83.2	91.4	100.3	109
48's and coarser	do.	28.1	30.4	32.3	34.9	21.7	24.9	27.3	29.8	32.3	93
Carpet (duty-free foreign)	do.	84.9	94.3	103.4	114.5	81.8	95.0	106.9	118.5	132.7	116
Woven wool fabric production 5/	Million linear										
Accumulated since January 1	yards										
Apparel fabrics	do.	186.4					222.8				120
Government orders	do.	1.9					5.3				279
Men's and boys' wear	do.	85.1					106.6				125
Women's and children's wear	do.	99.4					110.9				112
Non-apparel fabrics	do.	18.2					11.3				62
Blanketing	do.	10.8					7.9				73
Other non-apparel fabrics	do.	7.4					3.4				46
Total woven fabrics	do.	204.6					234.1				114

1/ Preliminary.
2/ Includes carbonized wool which is not reported by grade.
3/ On woolen and worsted systems; excludes wool consumed on the cotton and other spinning systems and in the manufacture of felts, hat bodies, and other miscellaneous products.
4/ Monthly periods are 4 or 5 calendar weeks generally totaling 13 weeks per quarter.
5/ Principally wool, reprocessed wool, or reused wool by weight.

Compiled from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

The rate of world consumption during each of the first three quarters of 1955 is estimated to have been slightly above a year earlier. The average rate for the three quarters was 2 percent above the like 1954 period. The increase last year reflected increases in Germany, Japan, United Kingdom, and United States. Mill use in France and Italy declined.

SURVEY OF RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Prices in Foreign Markets Continue Below a Year Earlier

Since the first week of last September, when the 1955-56 British Dominion auction season opened, prices of wool in world markets have been relatively stable although prices of crossbreds have advanced a little. Toward the end of the opening week of the auctions, prices were between 15 and 20 percent below a year earlier and between 10 and 15 percent below the closing 1954-55 prices of last June.

Early in February 1956 prices of merino wools were the same as or very slightly above those prevailing early in the season but ranged between 5 and 15 percent below a year earlier. In general, prices of crossbred wools are a little higher than earlier in the season and range from 10 percent below to 5 percent above a year earlier.

Boston Quotations Advance a Little

Boston quotations for most imported and domestic wools during recent weeks have advanced up to as much as 9 percent. However, most quotations early in February ranged from 5 to 20 percent below a year earlier (table 2). In general, reductions from a year earlier have been greatest for the fine descriptions.

Quotations at Boston declined gradually from mid-1954 until late in 1955. The declines for most descriptions were within the range of 10 to 35 percent.

Table 1.- Price per pound of fleece wools at the London auctions, clean basis (Bradford yield), 1954-56

Week ended 1/	Good medium fleeces		Fine cross-bred fleeces		Crossbred fleeces	
	64's-70's	58's-60's	56's	50's	48's	46's
	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents
1954						
January 22	183.9	146.5	105.4	87.9	83.2	82.0
January 29	183.9	142.9	105.4	89.0	83.2	83.2
February 26	175.9	144.2	109.0	92.6	86.8	84.4
March 5	173.5	140.7	110.2	92.6	89.1	86.8
April 2	179.5	146.7	116.2	99.7	96.2	93.9
April 9	179.6	146.7	116.2	98.6	95.1	92.7
May 14	182.1	152.7	119.8	102.2	97.5	95.1
May 21	182.1	152.7	119.8	103.4	98.7	96.3
July 9	173.8	152.6	119.8	101.0	96.3	93.9
July 16	173.8	152.6	119.8	102.1	97.4	95.1
September 10	164.9	140.3	---	98.2	91.2	90.0
September 17	172.7	144.7	---	100.4	94.5	92.2
November 26	155.7	122.0	---	87.2	83.7	81.3
December 10	156.9	119.7	104.6	90.6	86.0	83.7
1955						
January 14	150.9	119.5	104.4	89.4	84.7	83.6
January 21	155.5	120.7	106.8	91.7	87.0	84.7
February 18	155.3	121.7	110.1	93.9	89.3	88.1
February 25	155.6	124.3	110.3	95.2	91.8	90.6
March 25	153.6	124.5	108.2	94.3	90.8	89.6
April 1	149.0	124.5	108.2	94.3	90.8	89.6
May 13	149.2	124.7	110.7	95.6	90.9	89.7
May 20	148.8	124.4	110.4	96.5	91.8	90.7
July 15	141.5	116.0	---	92.8	88.1	87.0
July 22	133.4	113.6	---	91.6	87.0	85.8
September 9	127.6	109.1	98.6	83.5	81.2	78.9
September 22	130.0	109.1	---	84.7	82.4	80.1
October 28	134.0	111.9	97.9	88.6	85.1	82.7
November 4	134.3	112.1	---	89.9	86.4	84.1
December 2	135.4	112.1	---	91.1	88.7	87.6
December 9	135.4	113.2	---	92.2	89.9	88.7
1956						
January 20	135.7	111.2	94.8	90.1	87.8	87.8
January 27	136.9	111.1	92.4	87.7	85.4	85.4

1/ Opening and closing weeks for each series.

Compiled from Kreglinger and Fernau market reports. Prices converted from pence to cents at current rates of exchange.

Table 2.- Prices of domestic shorn wool at Boston, clean basis, for week ended February 10, 1956 with comparisons

Classification	Average 1947-49	1955 week ended Feb. 11	1955 week ended Oct. 7	1956 week ended Feb. 10	Percentage change week ended Feb. 10 from		
					Average 1947-49	Feb. 11 1955	Oct. 7 1955
	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Percent	Percent	Percent
Graded							
Territory and Texas							
Fine, good French combing and staple	151.7	155.0	132.5	132.0	-13.0	-14.8	-0.4
1/2 blood, good French combing and staple	137.1	145.0	122.5	122.5	-10.6	-15.5	0
3/8 blood, good French combing and staple	109.1	130.0	107.5	112.5	+ 3.1	-13.5	+4.7
1/4 blood, good French combing and staple	100.0	117.5	102.5	107.5	+ 7.5	- 8.5	+4.9
Low 1/4 blood	89.9	105.0	92.5	97.5	+ 8.5	- 7.1	+5.4
Common and braid	83.5	97.5	92.5	92.5	+10.8	- 5.1	0
Fleece							
Fine, Delaine	154.5	167.5	132.5	138.0	-10.7	-17.6	+4.2
1/2 blood, good French combing and staple	131.6	140.0	112.5	117.5	-10.7	-16.1	+4.4
3/8 blood, good French combing and staple	103.2	119.0	101.0	107.5	+ 4.2	- 9.7	+6.4
1/4 blood, good French combing and staple	97.0	110.0	97.5	102.5	+ 5.7	- 6.8	+5.1
Low 1/4 blood	78.4	105.0	92.5	92.5	+18.0	-11.9	0
Common and braid	73.4	97.5	87.5	87.5	+19.2	-10.3	0
Original bag							
Fine Texas	150.9	162.5	132.5	142.5	- 5.6	-12.3	+7.5
Good French combing and staple	121.0	147.5	122.5	122.5	+ 1.2	-17.0	0
Eight months (1 inch and over)	110.8	137.5	112.5	112.5	+ 1.5	-18.2	0
Fall (3/4 inch and over)							

Compiled from market reports of Agricultural Marketing Service.

1955 Growers' Prices Much Lower Than in 1954

Prices received by domestic growers for shorn wool this season declined from an average of 48.7 cents per pound, grease basis, at mid-April, the first month of the current season, to 39.0 cents at mid-November. They then advanced slightly to 39.5 cents at mid-January. The national average support or incentive level under the 1955 payments program is 62 cents. The national average price for the 1954 season was 53.9 cents, slightly above the national average support level of 53.2 cents.

The lower prices for the 1955 clip reflect the larger world supply and the change in the method of providing support. Under the 1955 program, growers sell their wool in the open market at prices reflecting world supply and demand conditions. Support is provided through payments (to be made after the end of the marketing season) which will bring the average return per pound up to the incentive level.

1956 Wool Program

The incentive level for the 1956 marketing year which begins April 1 will be 62 cents per pound, the same as under the 1955 program. Support under the program will be effected through Government payments to producers after the close of the marketing season. As under the 1955 program, payments to the individual producer for shorn wool will be equal to the price he received in the open market times the percentage needed to bring the average of prices received by all producers up to the incentive level.

The pulled wool program will operate through payments on marketings of live animals as under the present program. However, some changes have been made in eligibility requirements. Under the 1955 program, those who sell for slaughter, or slaughter, lambs and yearlings which they have owned for at least 30 days and which have full wool pelts are eligible for payments. Lambs and yearlings which have never been shorn or have a $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch growth of wool at the time of sale for slaughter, or slaughter, are considered as having full wool pelts. Under the 1956 program, each producer who sells unshorn lambs which he has owned for at least 30 days will be eligible for payment. The payment to the original producer will be based on the full liveweight of the animals when sold by him. Payment to each subsequent owner will be based on the weight gained during his ownership. The method of computing payments will be the same as under the 1955 program: the payment per hundred pounds of eligible live animal will be 4 times the average payment per pound of shorn wool.

Prices of Synthetic Staple Reduced

Late last year, manufacturers of several synthetic staple fibers announced substantial price reductions. Among the staple fibers for which prices were reduced were Acrilan, Dacron, Dynel, Nylon, and Orlon. The reductions ranged from 20 to 30 cents per pound. Most are within the range of 15 to 20 percent.

Number of Sheep and Lambs About the Same

Sheep and lambs on farms and ranches, including those on feed, amounted to 31.1 million head on January 1, 1956, compared with 31.6 million head a year earlier. The number of stock sheep totaled 27.0 million head, a decline of less than 1 percent from early 1955 (table 3). The number on feed, 4.1 million head, was 6 percent lower than a year earlier.

Table 3.- Number of stock sheep and lambs on farms and ranches, by class, United States, January 1, 1942-56

Year	Lambs		One year and over			Total stock sheep
	Ewes	Rams and wethers	Ewes	Rams	Wethers	
	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head
1942	7,864	1,778	37,361	1,446	897	49,346
1943	6,928	1,643	37,303	1,434	888	48,196
1944	6,142	1,951	33,991	1,345	841	44,270
1945	4,782	1,513	31,280	1,264	770	39,609
1946	4,765	1,530	27,619	1,100	511	35,525
1947	4,199	1,415	24,790	994	407	31,805
1948	4,058	1,144	23,013	901	370	29,486
1949	3,827	974	20,976	829	334	26,940
1950	3,908	1,109	20,057	790	318	26,182
1951	4,521	1,146	20,446	823	315	27,251
1952	5,049	827	20,952	842	274	27,944
1953	3,966	842	21,648	873	264	27,593
1954	3,641	823	21,471	868	276	27,079
1955	3,982	740	21,321	860	234	27,137
1956 1/	3,842	674	21,439	842	212	27,009

1/ Preliminary.

Even though more ewe lambs were held over at the beginning of 1955 than a year earlier, the number of ewes one year old and older was only slightly higher than a year earlier. All other classes showed declines as follows: ewe lambs, 4 percent; wether and ram lambs, 9 percent; rams one year old and older, 2 percent; wethers one year old and older, 9 percent; sheep and lambs on feed, 8 percent.

A decline of 2 percent in the number of stock sheep in the 13 Western States (11 Western, Texas, and South Dakota) was only partially offset by an increase of 3 percent in the Native States. The number of stock sheep in Texas, which had 18 percent of the total, was down 7 percent from a year earlier.

Number of Goats Up From Early 1955

Prospects are that more mohair will be clipped in 1956 than in 1955. The number of goats in Texas, which in 1954 accounted for over 95 percent of the mohair produced in the United States, totaled 2.8 million head on January 1, 1956. This was 9 percent above the number of a year earlier. The 1955 kid crop was considerably larger than that of 1954, while deaths were slightly higher and slaughter remained about the same as in 1954.

Slight Upward Revision in Estimate of 1955 World Production

The Foreign Agricultural Service revised estimate of world production of wool in 1955 is 4,485 million pounds, grease basis (table 4). This estimate, which was released late last November, is 10 million pounds above the

Table 4.- Production of wool in specified countries, grease basis, 1948-55

Country	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954 1/	1955 1/
	Mil.lb.	Mil.lb.	Mil.lb.	Mil.lb.	Mil.lb.	Mil.lb.	Mil.lb.	Mil.lb.
Argentina	419.0	415.0	430.0	420.0	407.0	400.0	365.0	355.0
Australia	1,031.0	1,110.0	1,117.5	1,080.0	1,281.1	1,244.0	1,288.0	1,331.0
New Zealand	367.0	390.0	390.0	406.7	418.0	426.0	455.0	460.0
Union of South Africa	219.0	217.5	227.5	240.0	256.8	264.6	280.0	295.0
United States	278.4	248.5	247.8	251.4	266.0	272.6	276.1	2/
Uruguay	144.0	163.3	185.0	187.4	189.8	202.5	198.4	201.7
Other countries	1,311.6	1,345.7	1,402.2	1,464.5	1,531.3	1,540.3	1,547.5	1,842.3
Estimated world total	3,770.0	3,890.0	4,000.0	4,050.0	4,350.0	4,350.0	4,410.0	4,485.0

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Estimate to be released February 27, 1956.

Data for United States from reports of Agricultural Marketing Service; data for other countries and world totals from reports of Foreign Agricultural Service.

first estimate. At the same time, the estimate for 1954 was revised upward from 4,390 to 4,410 million pounds.

The clean equivalent of the 1955 estimate is placed at 2,600 million pounds, an increase of 65 million pounds or between 2 to 3 percent over 1954. The 1955 season is the eighth in succession during which production has increased and the fourth in succession during which a new record has been established.

1954-55 Exports from Southern Hemisphere About Same as 1953-54

Total exports from the 5 major exporting countries of the Southern Hemisphere--Argentina, Australia, New Zealand, Union of South Africa, and Uruguay--during the 1954-55 season were less than 1 percent above the previous season (table 5). Changes for individual countries, however, varied considerably and ranged from an increase of 13 percent for Argentina to a decline of 32 percent for Uruguay.

Table 5.- Exports of wool, actual weight, from Southern Hemisphere surplus-producing countries, 1952-53, 1953-54 and 1954-55 seasons 1/

Exporting country	1952-53	1953-54	1954-55
	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds
Australia	1,066	1,071	1,045
New Zealand	383	389	411
Union of South Africa	217	229	250
Argentina	462	196	222
Uruguay	215	118	80

1/ Season beginning July 1 in Australia, New Zealand, and Union of South Africa, and season beginning October 1 in Argentina and Uruguay.

Compiled from reports of the Commonwealth Economic Committee.

1955-56 Exports from British Dominions Up From 1954-55

Total exports from Australia, New Zealand, and the Union of South Africa during the early months of the current season were considerably larger than those of early 1954-55 (table 6). Most of the increase was accounted for by Australia where a dock strike delayed exports during the early part of the 1954-55 season. The quantity available for export from these 3 countries is likely to be larger this year because of the sizable increases in production in 1955.

Table 6.- Exports of wool, actual weight, from British Dominions, 1953-54, 1954-55 and 1955-56 seasons through September 1/

Exporting country	1953-54	1954-55	1955-56
	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.
Australia 2/	432	336	439
New Zealand	45	45	39
Union of South Africa 3/	47	45	45

1/ Season beginning July 1.
2/ Through November.
3/ Through October.

Compiled from reports of Commonwealth Economic Committee.

U. S. Imported More Dutiable Wool Last Year

Imports of dutiable wool for consumption during the first 11 months of 1955 totaled 157 million pounds, actual weight, or about 105 million pounds, clean content. The quantity imported was about 8 million pounds, clean, or about 8 percent higher than for the same months of 1954. The increase in imports last year was associated with a higher rate of mill consumption.

Imports of 60's and finer wools increased about 15 percent while the total for other wools was down about 2 percent. Hence, 60's and finer accounted for a larger proportion of the total than in 1954. The percentage last year was 58 compared with 54 in 1954.

About 75 percent of the dutiable imports were of British Dominion origin last year (table 7). These countries--Australia, New Zealand, and the Union of South Africa--accounted for only 69 percent in 1954. The proportion from South America declined from 26 percent to 21 percent.

Table 7.- Percentage distribution of United States imports of wool by country of origin, January-October 1953-55

Country	Duty-free			Dutiable			Total		
	1953	1954	1955	1953	1954	1955	1953	1954	1955
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Australia	0.1	1/	0.3	25.7	40.6	46.1	14.6	20.3	20.7
New Zealand	9.7	9.9	8.5	14.4	15.1	13.4	12.3	12.5	10.7
Union of South Africa	.7	1.1	1.0	5.5	13.1	15.1	3.4	7.1	7.3
Argentina	48.9	45.1	43.5	31.5	14.5	10.8	39.1	29.8	28.9
Uruguay	.1	0	1/	18.6	11.8	10.7	10.5	5.9	4.8
Other countries	40.5	43.9	46.7	4.3	4.9	3.9	20.1	24.4	27.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

1/ Less than 0.05 percent.
Derived from reports of U. S. Department of Commerce.

Substantial Increase in U. S. Imports of Duty-free Wools Last Year

Imports of duty-free wools for consumption during January-November 1955 totaled 174 million pounds, actual weight, or 127 million pounds, clean content. This was 32 million pounds, clean content, above the quantity imported in 1954. The increase was well in excess of the increase in reported mill consumption last year.

Almost 44 percent of total imports of duty-free wools were from Argentina, compared with 45 percent in 1954. The proportion from New Zealand declined from about 10 percent in 1954 to about 9 percent in 1955.

CCC Holdings
Being Reduced

A competitive bid sales program with the orderly disposal of CCC wool as its objective went into effect last November. Under the program, monthly sales for domestic use at or above prices established by CCC are subject to a maximum limitation of 6¼ million pounds. This monthly maximum is equivalent to approximately 1/24 of the quantity held by CCC on November 1. The monthly sales limitation does not apply to any sales made at (1) 103 percent of the 1954 loan rates plus sales commissions or (2) wool sold or bartered for export.

The full quota was sold during each of the first 3 months of the program. Almost half of the February quota was sold during the first week.

First-of-year Carpet Wool Stocks
Up a Little From a Year Earlier

Manufacturer and dealer holdings of carpet wool ("named" wools and wools not finer than 40's, both free and dutiable) at the end of 1955 are reported by the Bureau of the Census to have totaled 33.6 million pounds, scoured basis. This was about 3.3 million pounds larger than a year earlier. Of the increase, 2.4 million pounds were in manufacturers' holdings, which accounted for over 80 percent of the total.

U. S. Production and Consumption
of Manmade Staple Fiber Increases

The Textile Economics Bureau estimates that 105 million pounds of non-cellulosic staple and 396 million pounds of rayon and acetate staple fiber were produced in the United States last year (table 8). These quantities represent increases of almost 80 percent for non-cellulosic and of 4 percent for rayon and acetate. It is estimated that domestic consumption of rayon and acetate staple fiber increased from 434 million pounds in 1954 to 559 million pounds in 1955.

World Consumption of Wool Increased
Slightly Last Year

The Commonwealth Economic Committee estimates that world consumption of wool (apparel and carpet) during the first three quarters of 1955 was about 2 percent above that of the corresponding 1954 period. This estimate is based on information for 11 of the major wool consuming countries of the world. The increase last year resulted mainly from sizable increases in the United Kingdom, United States, Germany, and Japan. The gains in these countries were partially offset by substantial declines in Italy and France. The rate was above a year earlier during each of the three quarters; it was only one percent above a year earlier during the third quarter.

Table 8.- Production of manmade staple fiber, United States, 1946-55

Year	Rayon and acetate	Non-cellulosic	Total
	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds
1946	176.4	10.0	186.4
1947	228.4	3.3	231.7
1948	268.2	5.0	273.2
1949	195.1	10.0	205.1
1950	305.5	22.4	327.9
1951	336.0	31.7	367.7
1952	307.0	47.2	354.2
1953	310.0	51.3	361.3
1954	378.9	58.8	437.7
1955	395.6	105.3	500.9

Compiled from Textile Organon.

Consumption of other materials by the wool textile industry increased 9 percent last year. This was somewhat greater than the increase for wool.

Mill use of wool during the third quarter is estimated to have been about 7 percent below that of the second quarter. The decline was a little more than seasonal. Use of other materials also declined, but the drop was a little less than that for wool.

Table 9.- Estimated world production and consumption of wool, clean basis, 1948-56

Item	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.
Production 1/	2,135	2,185	2,253	2,329	2,354	2,526	2,540	2/2,579	3/2,670
Consumption	2,574	2,449	2,681	2,277	2,352	2,627	2,501		

1/ Production during the season beginning July 1 of the previous calendar year. 2/ Preliminary. 3/ Forecast.

Compiled from reports of the Commonwealth Economic Committee.

U. S. Mills Used a Little
More Apparel Wool Last Year

Reported mill use of apparel wool during 1955 was 286 million pounds, scoured basis, about 7 percent above 1954. However, it was 20 percent below 1953 and, except for 1954, the lowest since before World War II. The weekly rate of mill use was above a year earlier each month except for June-August (table 10).

The modest increase last year probably reflected increased sales at the various stages of manufacture and distribution associated with the continued high level of consumer purchasing power and lower inventory-sales ratios at the beginning of 1955 than a year earlier.

Practically all of the gain over 1954 was on the woolen system. Consumption by that segment of the industry increased from 128 to 145 million pounds. Consumption on the worsted system increased only 2 million pounds-from 139 to 141 million pounds.

About 153 million pounds of 60's and finer wools were used on the two systems. The percentage increase, about 10 percent, for such wools was a little larger than that for other wools. Hence, 60's and finer wools represented a slightly larger proportion of total consumption last year than in 1954 (table 11).

The grade distribution of the wool consumed on the worsted system was nearly the same as in 1954. A substantial change took place on the woolen system, however, where 60's and finer wools represented 38 percent of the total compared with 34 percent in 1954.

1955 Mill Use of Carpet Wool
Up Substantially From 1954

Last year United States mills used 133 million pounds, scoured basis, of carpet wool. This was about 16 percent more than they used during 1954. In each month, except January, the weekly rate averaged above a year earlier.

Use of other fiber in the spinning of carpet and rug yarn by woolen mills increased 14 million pounds, or 32 percent, double the percentage increase for wool. The quantity of manmade fiber increased from 25 to 36 million pounds, or 43 percent. This fiber accounted for 19 percent of all fiber used compared with 16 percent in 1954 (table 13).

1955 Production of Woolen and
Worsted Fabric Above 1954

About 234 million linear yards of woolen and worsted woven fabric (fabric principally wool, reprocessed wool, or reused wool by weight) were

Table 10.- Weekly rate of consumption of apparel and carpet wool on woolen and worsted systems, scoured basis, United States, by months, 1950-55

Classification	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.
1950												
Apparel	8,006	8,837	8,518	7,943	8,268	8,084	7,370	9,901	9,015	9,671	7,871	7,393
Carpet	3,974	3,977	3,989	4,208	4,097	3,725	2,448	3,989	3,710	4,223	3,712	3,638
Total	11,980	12,814	12,507	12,151	12,365	11,809	9,818	13,890	12,725	13,894	11,583	11,031
1951												
Apparel	8,192	7,496	7,020	8,754	8,609	8,541	6,282	7,320	6,912	6,360	6,368	6,300
Carpet	3,416	3,410	3,268	2,507	1,807	1,622	413	1,040	1,069	1,556	1,663	1,761
Total	11,608	10,906	10,288	11,261	10,416	10,163	6,695	8,360	7,981	7,916	8,031	8,061
1952												
Apparel	5,904	6,218	5,971	5,876	6,277	6,779	6,335	7,621	7,784	7,656	7,120	6,725
Carpet	2,261	2,513	2,385	2,265	2,033	1,403	1,289	2,305	2,730	2,648	2,824	3,029
Total	8,165	8,731	8,356	8,141	8,310	8,182	7,624	9,926	10,514	10,304	9,944	9,754
1953												
Apparel	7,033	7,599	7,704	7,472	8,075	8,034	6,526	7,649	7,083	5,986	4,717	4,118
Carpet	2,869	3,238	3,295	2,929	2,450	2,622	1,490	2,677	2,503	2,358	2,258	2,137
Total	9,902	10,837	10,999	10,401	10,525	10,656	8,016	10,326	9,586	8,344	6,975	6,255
1954												
Apparel	4,652	4,916	4,894	5,476	5,851	5,570	5,271	5,926	4,881	4,962	4,685	4,520
Carpet	2,514	2,500	2,389	2,346	2,093	1,793	1,370	2,296	2,300	2,365	2,274	2,214
Total	7,166	7,416	7,283	7,822	7,944	7,363	6,641	8,222	7,181	7,327	6,959	6,734
1955												
Apparel	5,337	5,681	5,424	5,681	5,874	5,408	5,171	5,786	5,179	5,747	5,661	5,185
Carpet	2,490	2,549	2,535	2,554	2,584	2,252	1,659	2,627	2,649	2,973	2,891	2,792
Total	7,827	8,230	7,959	8,235	8,458	7,660	6,830	8,413	7,828	8,720	8,552	7,977

Derived from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

Table 11.- Percentage distribution of apparel wool consumption by grades, United States, 1946-55

Grade	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
60's and finer	54.8	62.2	62.6	54.6	56.3	58.5	51.2	51.0	52.4	53.6
50's up to 60's	31.3	25.6	26.9	35.4	34.5	32.8	35.8	35.8	34.5	35.1
48's and coarser	13.9	12.2	10.5	10.0	9.2	8.7	13.0	13.2	13.1	11.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

1/ Preliminary.

Derived from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

Table 12.-Percentage distribution of apparel wool consumption on woolen and worsted systems, United States, 1946-55

System	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
Worsted	56.9	64.0	65.8	59.1	67.3	58.9	53.9	57.3	52.0	49.3
Woolen	43.1	36.0	34.2	40.9	32.7	41.1	46.1	42.7	48.0	50.7
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

1/ Preliminary.

Derived from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

produced during the first three quarters of 1955 (table 14). The quantity woven was about 30 million yards or 14 percent above that of the same period of 1954. Production was above a year earlier during each of the three quarters.

The increase in 1955 was associated with a gain of 37 million yards, or 20 percent, in output of apparel fabric. Output of men's and boys' apparel fabric increased from 85 to 107 million yards or 25 percent. Woolen fabrics increased 49 percent while worsteds were up only 10 percent. Production of women's and children's apparel fabric increased from 99 to 111 million yards or 12 percent. Woolens increased 14 percent while worsteds dropped 14 percent.

Production of non-apparel fabric was down 7 million yards or 38 percent. About 27 percent fewer yards of blanketing and 55 percent fewer yards of other non-apparel fabric were woven.

1955 Cuttings of Men's Tailored Clothing Above 1954

About 16 million regular-weight suits, 5 million summer-weight suits, 5 million overcoats and topcoats, and 63 million separate dress and sport trousers were cut last year (table 15). Cuttings of all of these categories exceeded those of 1954. The increases ranged from about 1 percent for summer-weight suits to 15 percent for overcoats and topcoats.

Wool fabrics accounted for a smaller proportion of summer-weight suits last year than in 1954 - 35.8 percent compared with 38.0 percent. Cuttings from wool fabrics declined 5 percent while cuttings from other fabrics increased 4 percent (table 16). However, wool fabrics accounted for a much larger proportion of the separate dress and sport trousers. The proportion increased from 31.6 percent in 1954 to 35.2 percent last year. Cuttings from wool fabrics increased 26 percent while cuttings from other fabrics increased only 7 percent. Information as to the fiber content of the other items is not available.

1955 Cuttings of Women's Outerwear Garments Up From 1954

About 26 million coats, 16 million suits, 146 million unit-priced dresses, and 83 million women's, misses', and juniors' skirts were cut last year (table 17). The quantities produced represented increases ranging from about 2 percent for coats to 10 percent for skirts (table 18).

At present, the breakdown by fiber content of the fabric used for most categories is limited to "rayon and acetate" fabrics and "other" fabrics. For all categories for which information is available, "other" fabrics accounted for a larger proportion of the total quantities produced last year than in 1954. Cuttings from "other" fabrics increased, while cuttings from "rayon and acetate" fabrics declined or increased less than cuttings from "other" fabrics.

Table 13.- Percentage distribution of fibers consumed for spinning of carpet and rug yarns on the woolen and worsted systems, United States, by months, 1950-55

Fiber	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Year
	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
Shorn and pulled wool of the sheep													
1950	80.3	80.3	81.2	81.6	81.6	79.1	75.5	78.4	78.5	76.8	74.7	74.2	79.2
1951	73.9	71.4	72.5	63.0	54.6	52.0	38.7	56.2	57.4	65.5	64.5	69.8	64.5
1952	71.1	73.8	72.0	72.4	70.9	74.5	75.1	78.5	75.2	74.2	75.5	73.9	73.8
1953	73.6	73.4	73.4	74.9	73.0	74.0	74.7	77.7	75.8	74.3	75.5	75.3	74.6
1954	72.8	74.8	76.1	74.9	74.2	71.5	69.7	71.3	73.2	69.7	71.7	71.7	72.8
1955	67.2	67.8	67.4	68.8	72.8	68.8	69.5	70.5	72.2	71.1	71.1	73.3	70.1
Other wool 1/													
1950	3.4	3.8	3.4	3.0	3.1	3.8	3.1	4.6	3.2	3.3	3.1	2.7	3.4
1951	2.5	2.8	3.3	3.5	3.6	3.6	3.7	2.8	2.1	2.4	2.0	3.7	3.0
1952	2.7	2.1	3.2	3.8	4.3	2.4	2.4	2.3	4.0	4.3	4.6	4.2	3.5
1953	4.0	5.5	5.0	5.3	4.3	6.6	4.8	4.9	4.7	5.8	5.2	5.7	5.1
1954	2.1	1.8	2.0	2.3	2.3	2.2	3.0	1.7	2.1	2.5	2.2	2.0	2.1
1955	1.5	1.6	1.7	2.0	1.9	2.1	2.3	1.7	1.9	1.7	2.0	2.1	1.9
Reused and reprocessed wool 1/													
1950	10.8	9.2	9.7	9.4	9.2	10.1	11.5	8.7	9.8	9.7	10.2	8.7	9.7
1951	9.2	9.6	8.9	9.1	9.2	8.5	13.1	5.0	8.5	6.8	7.3	5.8	8.5
1952	6.8	5.9	4.7	4.8	5.9	8.4	10.4	6.2	5.9	5.6	4.4	4.6	5.9
1953	5.4	4.0	5.0	4.8	5.9	4.8	7.1	4.1	5.0	4.4	7.7	4.4	5.1
1954	7.4	7.5	8.3	6.8	7.4	9.1	7.9	8.9	9.1	7.7	7.7	8.1	8.0
1955	9.0	8.3	9.5	7.5	5.9	6.0	6.6	5.9	7.4	7.7	7.4	7.8	7.4
Man-made fiber 2/													
1950	2.4	4.0	3.0	3.4	3.8	4.5	5.5	5.7	5.8	7.2	9.4	12.3	5.6
1951	11.7	13.8	13.4	22.0	29.4	31.9	37.1	31.4	27.7	21.5	22.3	17.5	20.8
1952	17.4	15.8	18.6	17.6	17.2	12.2	9.6	11.5	13.2	14.2	14.0	16.1	15.1
1953	15.3	16.0	15.6	14.0	15.7	13.7	12.7	11.9	13.4	14.5	10.7	13.5	14.1
1954	16.8	14.8	12.5	14.9	15.3	16.6	19.1	17.3	15.3	18.2	17.4	17.4	16.2
1955	21.6	21.5	20.6	20.7	18.4	22.0	19.4	20.4	16.6	17.5	18.0	15.9	19.3
Other fiber 2/													
1950	3.1	2.7	2.7	2.6	2.3	2.5	4.4	2.6	2.7	3.0	2.6	2.1	2.1
1951	2.7	2.4	1.9	2.4	3.2	4.0	7.4	4.6	4.3	3.8	3.9	3.2	3.2
1952	2.0	2.4	1.5	1.4	1.7	2.5	2.5	1.5	1.7	1.7	1.5	1.2	1.7
1953	1.7	1.1	1.0	1.0	1.1	.9	.7	1.4	1.1	1.0	.9	1.1	1.1
1954	.9	1.1	1.1	1.1	.8	.6	.3	.8	.3	1.9	1.0	.8	.9
1955	.7	.8	.8	1.0	1.0	1.1	2.2	1.5	1.9	2.0	1.5	.9	1.3

1/ As defined in the Wool Products Labeling Act of 1939.
2/ Prior to January 1953, synthetics other than rayon and acetate were included with "other fibers".

Derived from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

Table 14.- Woolen and worsted fabric production in the United States, January-September 1951-54 1/

Fabric	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	Percentage change 1955 from - 1953	Percentage change 1955 from - 1954
	1,000 linear yards	1,000 linear yards	1,000 linear yards	1,000 linear yards	1,000 linear yards	Percent	Percent
Woven fabric (except felt)	284,075	255,580	267,026	204,555	234,071	-12.3	+14.4
Apparel	238,382	224,445	227,842	186,367	222,825	-2.2	+19.6
Government orders	71,848	53,735	15,422	1,921	5,308	-65.6	+176.3
Other than Government orders	166,534	170,710	212,420	184,446	217,517	+2.4	+17.9
Men's and boys'	86,408	78,022	102,804	2/85,037	2/106,611	+3.7	+25.4
Woolen	29,401	36,690	45,707	34,808	51,808	+13.3	+48.8
Worsted	57,007	41,332	57,097	44,883	49,223	-13.8	+9.7
Women's and children's	80,126	92,688	109,616	2/99,409	2/110,906	+1.2	+11.6
Woolen	62,215	78,356	92,066	79,696	90,711	-1.5	+13.8
Worsted	17,911	14,332	17,550	12,130	10,390	-40.8	-14.3
Non-apparel	45,693	31,135	39,184	18,188	11,246	-71.3	-38.2
Blanketing	22,973	17,134	22,973	10,750	7,895	-65.6	-26.6
Government orders	11,937	5,647	6,257	3/	523	-91.6	---
Other than Government orders	11,036	11,487	16,716	3/	7,372	-55.9	---
Other non-apparel	22,720	14,001	16,211	7,438	3,351	-79.3	-55.0
	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Percent	Percent
Woven felt	9,117	5,996	7,409	7,397	8,079	+9.0	+9.2

1/ Principally wool, reprocessed wool, or reused wool by weight. Blanketing in 72 inch width or equivalent. Other fabrics in 54 to 60 inch widths or equivalent 54 inch width.

2/ Includes fabrics 20 oz. and over for which breakdown not available. 3/ Not available.

Compiled from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

Table 15.- Cuttings of specified items of men's tailored clothing, United States, 1953-55

Type of garment	Number of garments cut			Percentage change in weekly average rate-1955 from	
	1953 (53 weeks)	1954 (52 weeks)	1955 (52 weeks)	1953	1954
	Thou.	Thou.	Thou.	Pct.	Pct.
Suits, total	21,665	19,301	21,231	-0.1	+10.0
Regular - weight	16,292	14,277	16,168	+1.1	+13.2
50 percent or more wool	14,841	---	---	---	---
Other	1,451	---	---	---	---
Summer - weight	5,373	5,024	5,063	-3.9	+.8
50 percent or more wool	1,626	1,908	1,813	+13.7	-4.9
Man-made fibers	3,565	2,830	2,848	-18.6	+.7
Other	182	286	402	+126.5	+40.0
Separate dress and sport trousers	56,267	56,112	63,252	+14.6	+12.7
50 percent or more wool	16,885	17,736	22,296	+34.6	+25.7
Chiefly rayon and other synthetics	34,649)	38,376	40,956	+6.0	+6.7
Chiefly cotton	4,733)				
Overcoats and topcoats	5,694	4,245	4,873	-12.8	+14.8

Compiled from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

Table 16.- Percentage distribution of cuttings of men's tailored clothing by fiber content and type of garment, United States, 1952-55

Type of garment	1952	1953	1954	1955
	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
Suits				
Regular - weight	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
50 percent or more wool	92.1	91.1	---	---
Other	7.9	8.9	---	---
Summer - weight	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
50 percent or more wool	27.8	30.3	38.0	35.8
Man-made fibers	69.0	66.4	56.3	56.3
Other	3.2	3.3	5.7	7.9
Separate dress and sport trousers	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
50 percent or more wool	32.6	30.0	31.6	35.2
Chiefly rayon and other synthetics	61.5	61.6)	68.4	64.8
Chiefly cotton	5.9	8.4)		

Derived from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

Table 17.- Cuttings of specified items of women's, misses', and juniors' outerwear garments by fiber content and type of garment, United States, 1954-55

Type of garment	1954	1955	Percentage change 1955 from 1954
	Thousands	Thousands	Percent
Dresses (unit-priced)	140,851	146,002	+3.7
Rayon and acetate	80,899	77,531	-4.2
Other	59,952	68,471	+14.2
Skirts	75,216	82,812	+10.1
Rayon and acetate	25,200	22,176	-12.0
Other	50,016	60,636	+21.2
Suits	13,431	15,651	+16.5
Rayon and acetate	5,911	6,438	+8.9
Other	7,520	9,213	+22.5
Coats	25,231	25,607	+1.5
Blouses	165,576	169,596	+2.4
Cotton	105,000	109,824	+4.6
Other	60,576	59,772	-1.3

Compiled from Facts for Industry Series M67H, Bureau of the Census.

Table 18.- Percentage distribution of cuttings of women's, misses' and juniors' outerwear garments by fiber content and type of garment, United States, 1954-55

Type of garment	1954	1955
	Percent	Percent
Dresses (unit-priced)	100.0	100.0
Rayon and acetate	57.4	53.1
Other	42.6	46.9
Skirts	100.0	100.0
Rayon and acetate	33.5	26.8
Other	66.5	73.2
Suits	100.0	100.0
Rayon and acetate	44.0	41.1
Other	56.0	58.9
Blouses	100.0	100.0
Cotton	63.4	64.8
Other	36.6	35.2

Derived from Facts for Industry Series M67H, Bureau of the Census.

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